



Thirteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony

Honoring the:

- New Hampshire Blue Ribbon Schools
- New Hampshire Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists, Finalists and the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 10, 2014

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.

Program

Welcome Reception

Emcee – Mackenzie Renner, Student
Alton Central School

Welcome – Cindy Chagnon
State Board of Education

Remarks by Dr. Judith Fillion, Director, Division of
Program Support

Remarks by Joey Lee
2014 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

NH Blue Ribbon Schools

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

SMART Technologies
Teaching Excellence Award

Remarks by Jean-Marie Beauchemin
Hannaford Supermarkets

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists,
Finalists, and Teacher of the Year

Remarks by Elizabeth “Liz” Lichtenberg
2015 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

Message from Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D. New Hampshire's Commissioner of Education

Tonight, at the thirteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the New Hampshire Department of Education annually honors exemplary educators through various recognition programs. There are thousands of excellent educators deserving of our recognition and gratitude. I want to thank you and so many other incredible New Hampshire teachers for the positive role they play in improving our children's lives and our state's future.

These awards and recognitions build community awareness about our state's finest schools and districts and show case the extraordinary talent in our state. We are proud to be able to recognize their superior ability to inspire students with a love of learning, their excellent teaching and best practices, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their commitment to their profession and students.

Promotion of educator recognition awards goes a long way towards keeping New Hampshire's teachers engaged and excited about education. Properly guided, awards programs can reach out to stakeholders and strengthen positive messages about the teaching profession. By recognizing the importance of outstanding educators we hope to encourage more people to consider a career in education and retain talented people. The future prosperity of our state is dependent on our educational system and I am proud to say that as I travel throughout the state and visit countless schools, I continue to be proud of what we accomplish in New Hampshire. Nothing touches more lives, or gives more promise to the future than education.

New Hampshire's goal is to improve teaching and learning environments so that all schools promote rigor, relevance, and relationships throughout the learning process. If students are to succeed, they must be inspired to believe in themselves. With appropriate support, students are able to be actively engaged in their learning, and can begin to see the connection between what they learn today and who they want to become tomorrow. As I have visited schools across New Hampshire I have been encouraged by the innovation, personalization and the multiple paths to learning that I have witnessed. I have been surrounded by adults who care very much about their students and witnessed the growth of students under that caring guidance.

The real stories here are the teachers; they are the true heroes that focus on our state's future. These educators recognize the critical connection between successful students and educator excellence, and give their time and ideas to improve our educational system. We are proud to acknowledge the vision and dedication that these New Hampshire educators bring to their profession. Each one of these outstanding individuals has made an impact on the lives of their students and the profession of teaching. The Department of Education would like to applaud the outstanding achievements of these recipients.

Joey Lee

2014 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Joey Lee is in his eighth year of teaching at Pinkerton Academy. He believes it is his job to teach each individual, recognizing the unique characteristics and strengths of each student, working to hone their strengths and overcome their challenges. Mr. Lee said, "I try and relate to the students by establishing mutually respectful and honest relationships built on mutual effort." Joey is an exceptional educator and leader with complete dedication to his students and his teaching and is highly respected by his administration and his colleagues. In addition to teaching, he is also the golf and hockey coach as well as the Co-Director to the China Exchange Program.

Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals.

The US Secretary of Education sends a letter of invitation to each state's Chief State School Officer/Commissioner requesting that the State department send the names of a designated number of schools in the state that meet the criteria for recognition. Based on state data, the Commissioner certifies that the submitted schools meet one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

The second category is “Exemplary Improving,” in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

Chichester Central School and Hampton Centre School were chosen as “Exemplary High Performing” schools and Thornton Central School was chosen as an “Exemplary Improving” school.

About the Recipients

Chichester Central School

Brian Beaverstock, Principal

Chichester Central School serves 246 students K-8. As the staff at Chichester Central School believes, and all agree, although physically small in size, there is no problem so large that they will not tackle or any idea so grand that they will not consider. In a community of 3,500, there was a decision that satisfactory was not good enough. The school and the community set a goal of excellence and developed a plan that would guide them on that journey. The new mission was “Chichester Central School will foster a learning community in which academic excellence is promoted, respect for self and others shared, and childhood memories created that lead to a happy, successful adulthood.” Chichester students have climbed from 102nd in the state in reading to 21st, and from 118th in math to 13th. Each student has an Individual Student Plan (ISP). By bringing together the teacher, parent, and child, individual needs and strengths are the focus. Educators began to understand and appreciate the unique strength that each brought to the table and the wall between special and regular education fell. In Chichester, they believe that when they see problems, they solve them.

Hampton Centre School

Timothy Lannan, Principal

Hampton Centre School serves 426 students PreK-2. Roadside historical marker, number 14, stands on the front lawn of Hampton Centre School marking the site that for the past 365 years has been dedicated to the instruction of Hampton’s children. Centre School had a vision when its doors opened in 1649 “to teach and instruct all the children of our Towne,

both male and female, which are capable of learning to write and read and cast accounts.” Today the vision continues as a community of learners committed to excellence with two consistent overriding goals: to promote a sense of community that values its students, families and staff; secondly, all strive for academic excellence and provide students with the fundamental tools for learning and to instill behaviors that will become the cornerstones of future learning. Steeped in tradition, but flexible to change, the community of the Centre School makes a difference in the life of learners.

Thornton Central School

Jonathan Bownes, Principal

Thornton Central School serves 214 students K-8. This small town school located at the base of the White Mountains ensures students will have small class sizes with a strong emphasis on high student achievement and access to the latest technology and the arts. A teacher leadership team ensures that curriculum, instruction, and assessment are implemented with complete fidelity by regularly meeting to analyze student data, collaborate on common pacing for core subject areas, and to create curriculum maps to ensure vertical alignment in all grades. The teachers take pride on personalizing learning for students and they participate in specific professional development to promote the school goals. The school board and community promote what is best for students by providing all the resources needed for the optimum learning environment. For example, students in the middle school grades have had one to one devices for the past five years to ensure universal design for learning so all students can learn based on their personal learning styles. Their vision is: GROWTH: Every person, every day, some way.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The PAEMST is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Awards are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession as well as acknowledge educators who are models in both their classrooms and in their communities. In addition this award provides positive examples for pupils and peers alike.

The teachers receiving these awards are recognized for greatly improving their students' understanding in science and mathematics, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field.

The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and grades 7-12. After an initial selection process at the State level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive a national PAEMST. Winners at the national level receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, as well as a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities. National winners are usually announced in the Spring.

About the NH Recipient – Mathematics

Ann Gaffney

School: Londonderry Middle School

Teaching Experience: 14 years

Dr. Ann Gaffney has been teaching grades 6 through 8 at Londonderry Middle School since 1997. During this time, Ann has taught mathematics, science, reading, and enrichment programs. She has developed curriculum and provided academic coaching to other teachers. She currently works with the School's highest achieving math students and those students who need additional mathematics support.

Ann firmly believes that students of all ability levels develop their understanding of mathematics through their experiences wrestling with mathematical ideas and problems. This belief is evident throughout her classroom teaching. In the lesson featured in her PAEMST video, Ann guided student discussions as they debated various ways of classifying numerical relationships. The students probed their own understandings of the four basic operations as they built a foundation for their work in ratio and proportion. "Through questioning and summarizing," Ann wrote in her submission, "I lead the discussion in ways that summarize areas of agreement and draw attention to the areas of uncertainty. In this way, we can... focus our attention on areas of uncertainty and continue to grow in our understanding."

Ann holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Wellesley College, a M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Lesley University, and an Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning from Rivier University. Her research interests focus on the professional development of in-service teachers, particularly in the area of mathematics teaching and learning. Ann's work has been presented at workshops and conferences locally and at the international level. She is also a certified Intel Math instructor and has taught courses to current and pre-service teachers as an adjunct faculty member at local universities. Ann is passionate about helping students and teachers discover joy in the learning, teaching, and understanding of mathematical concepts.

About the NH Recipient – Science

Rebecca Cummings

School: Pelham Elementary School

Teaching Experience: 10 years

Rebecca Cummings teaches 5th grade in an inclusionary classroom, where all four subjects are taught every day. Having worked on a 3-year grant with teachers throughout New Hampshire to infuse Inquiry into science education, Rebecca has helped to develop lessons, training, and mentorships in which children discover the weight of their own wonderings, and their ideas become essential to the learning process.

To help students understand the components of the Nitrogen Cycle Rebecca developed lessons using red composting worms and decomposition tanks made from recycled 2-liter bottles. Students were asked to explore their ideas about whether “dead” material has energy. They designed, observed, and recorded their data. Through the three phases of Inquiry: Exploration, Investigation, Sense Making, the students discovered that as compost levels decreased, nutrient rich soil increased, thanks to the busy decomposers. The students used science journals throughout the project, engaging their own ideas through questions and predictions, collaborating with their peers for lasting learning experiences. Those journals became a valuable summative assessment tool not only for Science Processing Skills but also for Language Arts and Math, as the students include a reflective paper and graph.

Rebecca graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in English and Child Study and earned a M.Ed. from Rivier College. She is currently the Elementary Inquiry Facilitator for the Pelham School District and believes

that all children learn best when they are provided an opportunity for their individual ideas to be showcased and proven. Rebecca likes to call this a “minds-on” approach where teachers do their best work when they observe and facilitate, allowing students the space and materials to discover, explore, and grow as scientists.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Each year since 1952, New Hampshire schools have taken part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. Educators are selected from any New Hampshire state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, if they are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. He or she should:

- inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- play an active role in the community as well as in the school; and
- be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to work under a taxing schedule.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to help sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year (NH TOY) program. "Hannaford is proud to recognize and celebrate the teaching profession and to honor the valued role teachers play in our communities," said NH TOY Committee Member and Hannaford Retail Operations Support Specialist, Jean-Marie Beauchemin. "Congratulations to all the teachers being recognized tonight and thank you to all New Hampshire teachers for their commitment to their profession and their advocacy for their students."

It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to recognize and honor the contributions of the American classroom teacher. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the Voya Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs. It is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

For the past twelve years SMART Technologies has been honored to support U.S. State Teacher of the Year award programs through its Teaching Excellence Award program (TEA Program). SMART Technologies donates \$16,000 in classroom technology products and services.

About the Recipient

Elizabeth “Liz” Lichtenberg

Alton Central School

Experience: Eight Years

Mrs. Lichtenberg has been a part of the Alton community for five years. The selection committee recognized her innate ability to develop authentic relationships with her students. Her generous and optimistic demeanor welcomes students into the learning environment where she prides herself on providing individual guidance and motivation, nurturing each student's needs in order to be successful. Elizabeth takes great pride in ensuring the students are having fun, but requires they take risks as she makes every effort to facilitate growth and change by working closely with both students and parents. Her efforts in the classroom extend beyond the classroom doors as she connects her community to her classroom through a rich student-centered curriculum. Her commitment to her students and their families, her school, and her community are remarkable.

Liz works each day to create an environment where her students feel an ownership over their own learning, make connections, and become intrinsically motivated because they can see how what they are learning and doing makes a difference in their community.

2015 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

- Amanda Eaton, Wilkins School, Amherst, First Grade
- Kristina Peterson, Exeter High School, Science
- Erica Ferland, Stevens High School, Claremont, Science

2015 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists

- Patricia Edson, Carpenter Elementary School, Wolfeboro, Kindergarten
- Matthew Liebenow, Pine Tree School, Center Conway, Physical Education
- Tina Mulleavay, Manchester High School West, Social Studies
- Kirsten Werne, Hollis Brookline Middle School, Mathematics

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wishes to thank Hannaford Supermarkets for their continued support
of the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Program.*



And SMART Technologies for their generous donation of classroom
technology products and services.



The mission of the Department of Education is to provide educational leadership and services that promote equal educational opportunities and quality practices and programs that enable New Hampshire residents to become fully productive members of society.